<u>Amendments to the Claims</u>

Please amend Claim 8 and add new Claims 23-32 to read as follows.

1 to 5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

detecting a color solid axis of an original image;

judging one of an overexposure state and an underexposure state of the original image from a positional relationship between said color solid axis and an axis indicating the luminosity in a color space representing the color solid; and

setting an image correcting condition according to a result of said judgment.

7.   (Original) An image processing method according to claim 6, wherein said image correcting condition is a condition for adjusting the contrast of a component indicating the luminosity of said original image.

8.   (Currently Amended) An image processing method for effecting an image correction process on an original image according to the color distribution of the original image, comprising steps of:

detecting a color solid axis of the original image in a predetermined color space; and

controlling said image correction process of correcting an influence based on an image taking condition of the original image, based on a positional relationship of said color solid axis in said color space.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting a color solid axis of an original image;

judgment means for judging one of an overexposure state and an underexposure state of the original image from a positional relationship between said color solid axis and an axis indicating the luminosity in a color space representing said color solid; and

setting means for setting an image correcting condition corresponding to a result of said judgment.

11.   (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus for executing an image correction process on an original image, corresponding to the color distribution thereof, comprising:

detection means for detecting the color solid axis of the original image in a predetermined color space; and

control means for controlling said image correction process of correcting an influence based on an image taking condition of the original image, based on a positional relationship of said color solid axis in said color space.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable memory medium storing a computer program for realizing:

detecting means for detecting a color solid axis of an original image;

judgment means for judging one of an overexposure and an underexposure state of said original image from the positional relationship between said color solid axis and an axis indicating the luminosity in a color space representing said color solid; and

setting means for setting an image correcting condition according to a result of said judgment.

14.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable memory medium in which a computer program is stored, for realizing:

detection means for detecting the color solid axis of an original image in a predetermined color space; and

control means for controlling said image correction process of correcting an influence based on an image taking condition of the original image, based on a positional relationship of said color solid axis in said color space,

wherein said program causes an image correction process to be executed on the original image corresponding to the color distribution of the original image.

15.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein the correction process executed in said executing step executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity.

16.   (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining means for obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

correction means for executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein said correction means executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer readable memory medium in which a program of an image processing method is stored, said program comprising the codes for:

detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein the correction process executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity.

18. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 6, wherein the image correction condition is a condition that density correction is performed to have a luminance according to the original image.

19.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of correcting brightness of the original image according to the image correction condition.

20.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 8, wherein the influence based on the image taking condition includes a decrease in high-luminance saturation due to suppression of a high-luminance color or a decrease in low-luminance saturation due to suppression of a low-luminance color.

21.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 8, wherein said image correction process corrects an overexposure state or an underexposure state.

22.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 15, wherein the color fog correction includes a color balance correction.

23.   (New) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight

point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein the correction process executed in said executing step executes a

color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis

indicating the luminosity, by executing at least a rotation process on the color solid axis of

the original image.

24.   (New) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein

the rotation process is executed based on least luminosity of the original image as a

rotation center.

25.   (New) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein

the correction process includes a shift process for the color solid of the original image.

26.   (New) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein

whether or not the original image is an image captured by using a color filter or an image

acquired by taking a specific taking scene is judged, based on an inclination of the axis of

the color solid of the original image, and the correction process is executed to a

predetermined extent or is not executed, according to a judged result.

27.   (New) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein

the correction process is not executed or is executed to a predetermined extent, according

to a result of comparing an inclination of the axis of the color solid of the original image with a predetermined value.

28.   (New) An image processing method according to Claim 27, wherein the predetermined extent of the correction process is manually set.

29.   (New) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein a rotation axis of the rotation process is determined by designating a hue to which the correction process is not executed.

30.   (New) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein the correction process is not executed according to a direction of the axis of the color solid of the original image.

31.   (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining means for obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

correction means for executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein said correction means executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity, by executing at least a rotation process on the color solid axis of the original image.

32.   (New) A computer readable memory medium in which a program of an image processing method is stored, said program comprising the codes for:

detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein the correction process executed in said executing step executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity, by executing at least a rotation process on the color solid axis of the original image.